

In The Claims

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice.

Please replace claims 12, 29, and 34 as shown below. A marked up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.

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12. (Amended) A stackable low depth bottle case comprising:
- a floor structure having an upper surface;
- a pair of side structural members attached to the floor structure and defining an inner compartment with the floor structure, the side structural members having a lower edge and an upper edge;
- a plurality of pylons extending inwardly from the side structural members into the inner compartment, and a plurality of corner pylons defining corners of the case and extending into the inner compartment; and
- B1* a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting columns generally disposed within the inner compartment defining, in combination with the floor structure and the side structural members, a plurality of bottle retaining pockets, one of the columns extending a first height above a first location along the upper edge of one of the pair of side structural members, wherein the first location is disposed between a pair of adjacent pylons, and another of the columns extending a second height above a second location along the upper edge, wherein the second location is disposed between another pair of adjacent pylons, wherein at least one of the plurality of columns is located at the intersection of the case longitudinal axis and transverse axis and has an upper surface which is substantially co-planar with the upper surface of one of the plurality of pylons.
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29. (Amended) A low depth crate for storing and transporting bottles, the crate comprising:

a floor including a floor top surface having thereon a plurality of support areas for supporting an array of bottles;

a pair of side structural members attached to the floor and defining an inner compartment with the floor structure, the side structural members having a lower edge and an upper edge;

(B2) a plurality of pylons extending inwardly from the side structural members into the inner compartment; and

a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting columns generally disposed within the inner compartment defining, in combination with the floor structure and the side structural members, a plurality of bottle retaining pockets, wherein each of a pair of the columns is of substantially the same height, and extends a first height above a first location along the lower edge of one of the pair of side structural members, and wherein another one of the columns extends a second height above a second location along the lower edge, wherein the another one of the columns has an upper surface which is substantially co-planar with the upper surface of one of the plurality of pylons.

(B3) 34. (Amended) The crate of claim 29, wherein the another one of the columns is located at the intersection of the case longitudinal axis and transverse axis.

Please add the following new claims 45-54:

45. (NEW) A stackable low depth bottle case comprising:
a floor structure having an upper surface;
a pair of opposed side structural members attached to the floor structure and defining an inner compartment with the floor structure, the side structural members having a lower edge and an upper edge;
a plurality of pylons extending inwardly from the side structural members into the inner compartment, and a plurality of corner pylons defining corners of the case and extending into the inner compartment; and
a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting columns generally disposed within the inner compartment defining, in combination with the floor structure and the side structural members, a plurality of bottle retaining pockets, wherein one of the columns extends a first height above a first location along the upper edge of one of the pair of side structural members, wherein the first location is disposed between a corner pylon and an adjacent pylon, and wherein the one of the columns extends a second height above a second location along the upper edge of the other side structural member directly opposite the first location, wherein the height of the first location and the height of the second location are vertically offset.
(B4)
46. (NEW) The case of claim 45, wherein the plurality of columns are substantially the same height.
47. (NEW) The case of claim 45, wherein the plurality of pylons extend above the upper edge of the side structural members.
48. (NEW) The case of claim 45, wherein the plurality of pylons and the plurality of columns are generally co-planar.
49. (NEW) The case of claim 45, wherein at least one of the upper and lower edges of the side structural member is contoured along its length.

50. (NEW) A stackable low depth bottle case comprising:

a floor structure having an upper surface;

a pair of side structural members attached to the floor structure and defining an inner compartment with the floor structure, the side structural members having a lower edge and an upper edge;

a plurality of pylons extending inwardly from the side structural members into the inner compartment, and a plurality of corner pylons defining corners of the case and extending into the inner compartment; and

a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting columns generally disposed within the inner compartment defining, in combination with the floor structure and the side structural members, a plurality of bottle retaining pockets, wherein a first column and second column each extend a similar height above a predetermined location along the upper edge of one of the pair of side structural members, wherein the predetermined location is disposed between a pair of adjacent pylons, and wherein a third column is located at the intersection of the case longitudinal axis and transverse axis has an upper surface which is substantially co-planar with the upper surface of one of the plurality of pylons.

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51. (NEW) The case of claim 50, wherein the plurality of columns are substantially the same height.

52. (NEW) The case of claim 50, wherein the plurality of pylons extend above the upper edge of the side structural members.

53. (NEW) The case of claim 50, wherein the plurality of pylons and the plurality of columns are generally co-planar.

54. (NEW) The case of claim 50, wherein at least one of the upper and lower edges of the side structural members is contoured along its length.